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House and Senate Republicans unveil Student Safety Initiative

LANSING – House and Senate Republicans today unveiled legislation that keeps felons and dangerous individuals out of the classroom, announced Sen. Van Woerkom, a package sponsor and former school principal.

“Our schools should be an environment in which Michigan children are safe and free from sex offenders,” said Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores. “The legislation in this package will help ensure we can provide that kind of environment by keeping felons out of our schools.”

The Student Safety Initiative, a 14-bill package, includes:

- Requiring background checks on all paid school and day-care center employees and prohibiting anyone with a sex offense from being employed;
- Creating Student Safety Zones by prohibiting convicted sex offenders from living, working or loitering within 1,000 feet of a school;
- Revoking teaching certification for convicted sex offenders; and
- Requiring all school employees to self-report any criminal charge to their school district and to the Department of Education.

The Student Safety Initiative now goes to the House and Senate Education and Judiciary committees for consideration.

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